

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~cleaving~~breaking a machine component having a bearing eye (2), ~~especially a conrod (1) of a reciprocating piston engine~~, into two bearing shells along a breaking plane, each bearing shell comprising one half of the bearing eye (2), with the method comprising the following steps of:
  - ~~1.1a)~~ before the breaking process, positioning the machine component is stuck with its bearing eye (2) onto a two-piece split mandrel (10) having first and second mandrel halves;
  - ~~1.2b)~~ subjecting the bearing eye is subjected to an initial stress in splitting a breaking direction; by forcing the two first and second mandrel halves (11, 12) apart, said breaking direction defined by the direction of movement of one bearing shell relative to the other bearing shell;
  - ~~1.3c)~~ fixing the position of the bearing eye (2) is positionally fixed, relative to the associated one mandrel half (11), on one side of the intended splitting-breaking plane (4) by means of adjustable stops (20), while on the other side of the breaking plane the bearing eye is not positionally fixed but is held with play relative to the other mandrel half in a longitudinal direction of a shank of the machine component; and
  - ~~1.4d)~~ by driving in a wedge (16) between the two mandrel halves (11, 12), the and breaking the bearing eye along the bearing plane into the first and second bearing shells so that the one bearing shell associated with the fixed position of the one mandrel half is simultaneously split from the other bearing shell associated with the other mandrel half and moved away from the other bearing shell along the breaking direction; positionally fixed bearing shell together with the associated

~~mandrel half (11) is split from the bearing shell fixed on the other mandrel half (12) by substantially simultaneous breaking of both sides.~~

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that, wherein~~ during the breaking ~~process of the bearing eye~~, the mandrel half (11) associated with the positionally fixed bearing shell is moved away from the other mandrel half (12) ~~that is fixed to the framea frame.~~
3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that, wherein~~ during manufacture of the machine component, the breaking resistance of the bearing eye (2) is weakened on its inside along the ~~intended splitting breaking plane (4).~~
4. (currently amended) A device for ~~cleaving breaking~~ a machine component having a bearing eye and a small-end eye (2), especially a conrod (1) of a reciprocating piston engine, into two bearing shells along a breaking plane, each bearing shell comprising one half of the bearing eye (2), said shells defining a big-end cap and a big-end bearing, with the following features said device comprising:
  - 4.1a) ~~it comprises a two-piece split mandrel (10), whose having first and second~~ mandrel halves (11, 12) ~~that~~ form a common recess (13) for ~~driving in receiving~~ a wedge-driving tool (16) ~~that breaks said bearing eye into said two bearing shells, said bearing eye of said machine component being positioned on said two-piece split mandrel such that big-end cap and said big-end bearing are associated with said first and said mandrel halves;~~
  - 4.2b) ~~the a~~ circumference of the two-piece split mandrel corresponds corresponding approximately to ~~thea~~ bore of the bearing eye (2), the mandrel half (11) associated

with the big-end cap (5) being disposed on a slide arrangement (22) which is movable in a splitting direction, the other mandrel half (12) being fixed to the base frame;

4.3c) the slide arrangement (22) supports supporting two stops (29) for positionally fixing the big-end cap (5) relative to the associated mandrel half (11) on both sides of the breaking plane without play; and

4.4d) the conrod a shank (6, 7) of the machine component is fixed not positionally fixed but instead is supported with play between the mandrel half (12) fixed to the frame and a pin retainer in the inside of the small-end eye (8) such that it said small end-eye has limited movement ability;

4.5e) wherein the slide arrangement (22) is subjected to initial stress in the splitting direction (P2); in such a way that the bearing eye (2) is subjected to an initial tensile stress assisted by the two mandrel halves (11, 12) before the breaking process of the bearing eye into said two bearing shells, the bearing shell defined by the big-end cap being movable away from the other bearing shell in the splitting direction.

5. (currently amended) A device according to claim 4, that wherein the stops (29) can be are hydraulically actuated and in addition are blocked against slipping out in the splitting direction (P2) by a mechanical correcting device (37).

6. (currently amended) A device according to claim 5, characterized in that wherein the mechanical correcting device (37) is designed as a wedge-type deflector that can be actuated by means of a hydraulic prop (38).

7. (currently amended) A device according to claim 4, ~~wherein~~~~characterized in that~~ the movable mandrel half (11) is rigidly joined to the slide arrangement (22) and in that, by means of a hydraulic cylinder arrangement (26, 27), the ~~latter slide arrangement can be~~ is subjected to initial stress in the splitting direction (P2) against ~~a the~~ base frame (23) of the device.
8. (currently amended) A device according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the slide arrangement (22) ~~can be~~ is subjected to initial stress against a compression spring (25) disposed between the slide arrangement (22) and the frame (23), such that the slide arrangement (22) is cushioned after breaking of the ~~conrod (1)~~ machine component.
9. (currently amended) A device according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the stops (29) are mounted on spherical cups (31); so that plane stop faces (30) ~~can be~~ are oriented flush with ~~the~~ mating faces of the ~~conrod end~~ machine component at any angular position thereof.
10. (currently amended) A device according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the part of the recess (13) in the movable mandrel half (11) is formed as a slanted face (15) matched to the wedge-driving tool (16), and ~~in that the~~ part of the recess (13) in the mandrel half (12) fixed to the frame has a constant cross section throughout.
11. (currently amended) A device according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the small-end eye (8) is fixed with play in the longitudinal direction of the ~~conrod~~ shank (1) by a transverse pin (48) engaging therein.